



Thanksgiving

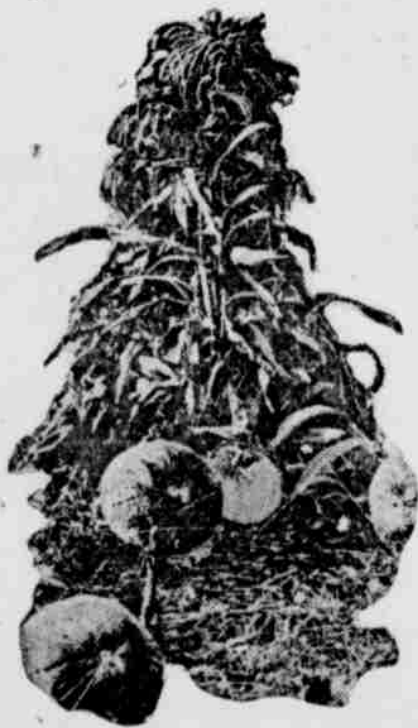
By GRACE M'KINSTRY

[Copyright, 1914, by American Press Association.]

THANKSGIVING'S here; I want to tell my joy to be alive and well. Through dangers great this year I went, though not a railroad accident, Not any war nor pestilence, but many things most took me hence.

I had a big mosquito bite, and on my head a fly did light; I've read of sickness through a fly—of course I thought I'd have to die! Some highly colored peas I ate and food with soda benzoate.

I drank unfiltered water, too; perhaps it had big germs all through! I did not sleep outdoors last May; I did not walk ten miles a day; I didn't have a diet fad, but here I am, and ain't I glad!



WHEN YOU SELECT YOUR TURKEY

In selecting your turkey or chicken choose a bird that is heavy in proportion to its size. Avoid those fowls that have a prominent breastbone, and pass over those having coarse skin and rough scales on the legs, for these show old age. Select a bird that has clean, smooth, yellow feet and legs, moist and delicate skin and a plump breast, which, when pressed with the thumb, will be elastic.

THANKSGIVING MENU.

Cream of Tomato Soup. Celery. Sea Trout. Potato Roses. Cucumbers. Roast Turkey, Cranberry Sauce. Baked Potatoes. Artichokes. Lettuce Salad. Cheese. Pumpkin Pie. Bonbons. Nuts. Salted Almonds. Coffee.

SPIRIT OF FESTIVITY IS TRUE KEY NOTE OF THANKSGIVING

THE TURKEY IS THE EMBLEM OF THE NATION'S FESTAL DEVOTIONS

From the early days when the Saxon Kings tethered their steeds "hard by the banquet board," so that the foam of the chargers' flecked the beard of the eater, to the present time, the spirit of the amply loaded board is the spirit of festivity and of good will. Thanksgiving day would be robbed of the particular flavor it possesses if it were a day of severe observation. The spirit of Thanksgiving without the sanctifying grace of the spread board would be a spirit of cheerlessness. The Thanksgiving turkey is as much a part of the day as are the devotions that the day calls forth. The devotions would be dry and sapless if the day were made a virtual penance, as would be the case without the turkey regnant upon the platter, while the family gathers about the board to give thanks for home blessings as a part of the liberal portion that Providence has dispensed to the nation. The Thanksgiving turkey is the emblem of the nation's devotion.

The assembling of the congregations in the churches is but a part of the devotion of the day. It is, in fact, the symbolic part. It is expressive of the spirit of the people in praise to the Deity for the general blessings to the nation. The actual spirit of thanksgiving is that which takes account of the union of the family in the act of praise as it partakes of the provisions of the day. Charles Lamb says that one should not only say grace at meat, but a hundred times a day for the good of living. The grace said at the Thanksgiving board—and even those unused to such invocation should observe it upon that occasion—is a grace for the blessings of God which the Thanksgiving dinner then sets forth.

Back of all nationality lies the family. This is the foundation stone in the social system. The city, the state, the nation are outgrowths of the family. The people expressing their thanks to Almighty God for the blessings conferred upon the community in its several organizations is not as sacred a symbol as the family at meat in recognition of the goodness of God to its members. The purity and sweetness of the family tie, the power and influence of the family teaching, the consecration and devotion of the heads of the family circle—these are the things that fill the measure of Thanksgiving as the myriad household groups gather about the well-laden boards to return thanks for the good things of God to them. From the youngest to the eldest in these groups the real spirit of thanksgiving is set forth, even though many of them do not dwell upon the spirit of praise in fact. For, after all, true thanksgiving is to be in the spirit of praise and not simply to express forms of devotion. These latter are essential as the symbolizing forth of the gratitude of the nation, but the simple loving and the goodness of the family group is the basis of the real thanksgiving spirit.

The churches will be well attended, and the discourse, the worship and the singing will all direct the mind toward the mighty advance of the nation that was formed from the scattered colonies of the Atlantic seaboard and will point to the beginnings of Thanksgiving day upon the bleak coasts of New England. All this is well. God, who made and has kept the American people a nation, has done more by that act to attest the spirit of his fatherhood than by any other act in the history of nations or of peoples. All should unite in worship in the churches and return home to enter into the praise of the family circle.

In the family circle will be found the turkey in the setting of the accompaniment of one of the biggest dinners of the year. It is to be hoped that all may have a Thanksgiving dinner, so that all may enter into the praise for the goodness of the giver of every good and perfect gift. Without the turkey, the accepted symbol of American rejoicing at Thanksgiving time, the day would be incomplete; with it the spirit and essence of the occasion is present.

O give thanks unto the Lord for He is generous and his mercy endureth forever.

PILGRIMS' THANKSGIVING

Governor Bradford describes the first Thanksgiving of the pilgrims in America:

"They (the pilgrim colonists) now began to gather the small harvest they had and to fit their dwellings against winter, all being well recovered in health, and had all things in good plenty. Some were employed in affairs abroad; others exercised in fishing about bass, cod and other fish of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All summer there was no waste. Now began to come in store of fowl as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first, and besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Beside, they had about a peck of meal to a person, or now, since harvest, Indian corn of that proportion."

On Dec. 11, 1621, Edward Winslow wrote of the Thanksgiving: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, so that we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. Amongst other recreations we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming among us, and among the rest Massasoit, their greatest king, with some ninety men, whom we entertained and feasted three days. They killed five deer, which they bestowed on our governor and the captain (Miles Standish, a Roman Catholic) and others. Although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God we are so far from want that we often wish you (were) partakers of our plenty."

From other sources it is learned that besides the exercises with arms that Winslow mentioned there were athletic contests. No doubt the pilgrims played stool ball, an old form of croquet, and pitch the bar, which Bradford named in his journal. There appears no evidence of special religious services having been held. The pilgrims had daily prayers before breakfast. In this service and in the temper of rejoicing that ran through their Thanksgiving they voiced their gratitude.

ANCIENT HEBREWS KEPT THE FEAST OF THANKSGIVING

The ancient Hebrews kept the feast of Thanksgiving with great rejoicing and religious ceremony. They called it the "Feast of Ingathering."

In Leviticus we are told that the Lord spake unto Moses and said: "Ye shall do no servile work therein and also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord, seven days, and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days."

Again in Exodus is mentioned "the feast of harvest, the first fruits of thy labors, which thou hast sown in the field, and the feast of ingathering, which is the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labors out of the field."

All of these feasts occurred after harvest time, when material blessings were both abundant and obvious and the people not only had the disposition, but the time, to be thankful after the labor of crop gathering was over.

In these Thanksgiving proclamations the people were commanded to take holiday, to feast and to rejoice, and all the proclamations since that day down to those annually issued by our governors have not improved upon this.

Fast Instead of Feast

Thanksgiving day, 1860, was a memorable event in the United States. From many a pulpit that day fell a warning that abnegation before God was more than the usual enjoyments of the day. So widely did this impression prevail that President Buchanan was appealed to by associations and various persons to appoint a special day of fasting and prayer to avert the dreaded coming of civil war. He yielded to the request, and Friday, January 4, 1861, was set apart for that purpose.

IMPULSE TO GIVE THANKS

The impulse to return thanks for the bounty of nature has been practically universal among mankind in all ages and in all religions. It is as natural as the instinct that inspires the hope of immortality, of man's dependence upon a supreme being. It is one with the involuntary appeal that springs unbidden to the lips of all in the hour of crises when human help can do no more.

It is a coincidence worthy of thought that the one nation which set aside a day for national thanksgiving should be the people above all others most blessed with peace and prosperity. Grumble as we may at the shortcomings of our civilization, however we may think our affairs should be ordered better, we should reflect that at no time in the history of the race has there been a people in possession of greater advantages, of more generally diffused abundance, with more encouraging prospects than ourselves.

The problems that confront us are in our own hands. We will solve them eventually and others as they arise. We may stumble, but we shall not be able to turn back to get on the right road, but of our ultimate progress there can be no doubt.

Let, therefore, each for himself and herself, return individual thanks today. If drunk with sight of power, we loose

Wild tongues that have not thee in awe.

Such boasting as the Gentiles use Or lesser breeds without the law Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, Lest we forget—lest we forget!

One Thanksgiving on July 4

According to Gabriel Furman, "Governor Peter Stuyvesant made a communication to the church (Reformed Dutch) of Brooklyn, on Long Island, on the last day of June, 1663, directing the fourth day of July following to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving, because among other things the English had been defeated in their attempt to take possession of the whole of Long Island by the timely arrival of a Dutch fleet of armed ships in the Bay of New Amsterdam, New York."

DOLLAR CHRISTMAS FUND FOR BELGIANS STRIKEN BY STRIFE

BANNER WILL RECEIVE DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AID IN RELIEVING DISTRESS

In the midst of plenty and all the warmth and comforts of our American homes when we sit down to our Thanksgiving dinners this year it is only meet and right that we pause for a moment and think of the "abomination of the desolation" with which the Belgians, especially among all nations, have been visited.

The Banner has received a letter from Henry Clews the great New York banker outlining admirable working plans for relief of the Belgians. Mr. Clews who is known all over the country as one of America's great conservative and constructive business men has been selected to act as treasurer of what is called the Dollar Christmas Fund for Homeless Belgians. He has asked the Banner to undertake to receive contributions for this fund, the idea of which will be fully explained in his letter given below.

The Banner is only too happy to undertake this work and will insure any reader who wishes to contribute his or her dollar that every contributor will receive a receipt direct from the fund headquarters in New York for the amount contributed.

Remember only a dollar is asked for—no more. This fact will make decidedly for the popularity of the fund. There will be no inequality of gifts.

Before commencing this work of receiving contributions the Banner management took the matter up with various citizens and the idea met with hearty approval. The following persons at once pledged a dollar each: E. E. Chapple, Dr. G. F. Smith, Rev. W. A. Biss, M. E. Osborne, Brinton F. Hall, F. A. Washburn, W. F. Sandell, J. K. Coates, Ford Hicks, N. C. Nielson, Charles Wagner, Henry Smith, Geo. Wagner, Mrs. E. B. Lapham, Mrs. Etta McLaughlin and Rev. A. J. Blair.

A full list of contributors will be published each week.

These names are given just simply to show the enthusiasm with which the idea was greeted. No attempt has been made to solicit funds generally as yet.

In order to have the money reach New York in time the Banner will send the contributions on the evening of December 16. Money will be received until 6 p. m. of that day.

Following is Mr. Clews' letter of appeal.

Appeal for Starving Belgians

Christmas approaches and countless unhappy Belgians, despite governmental relief, the Rockefeller Foundation and other valuable agencies, are confronted with starvation. I therefore beg the favor of your columns to say that the Dollar Christmas Fund for Homeless Belgians, of which I am Treasurer, is working for the special purpose of preventing starvation amongst hundreds of thousands of Belgians this winter. For this purpose we are cooperating with the London "Shilling Fund" a much older fund which has collected nearly \$400,000 and which is expressly organized to see that no Belgian, man, woman or child, spends Christmastide devoid of food and shelter.

There will be no duplicating, no overlapping and every penny subscribed will go direct to the victims in whose behalf I appeal. I believe this great work of mercy commands the sympathy of us all and more especially in this month when Americans doubly blessed with peace and plenty are preparing to celebrate the Day of Thanksgiving.

All the money received will be cabled to Europe before Dec. 20th. Many heads of families and boarding houses have promised to "pass the plate" for the homeless Belgians before the turkey on Thanksgiving Day. The needs are immeasurable. Let us remember that no little nation in the world's long history has been more grievously stricken yet no people can raise their heads more proudly from the dust. The crown of thorns is still a crown! Help is as best you can. Your gift will surely be remembered long after the war has ceased and no man's Thanksgiving or Christmas Day will be less happy because in some cases the gift may entail some measure of personal sacrifice.

Yours very truly,

HENRY CLEWS.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

By EUGENE C. DOLSON

[Copyright, 1914, by American Press Association.]

FOR guidance through the passing year, For kindred friends from far and near, Gathered with us around the board— For this, today, we thank thee, Lord.

For products of the teeming soil, Our rich returns for strenuous toil, A bounteous harvest safely stored, We meet this day to thank thee, Lord.

For ties of peace throughout the land, Fraternity of heart and hand, From shore to shore, in one accord, All, all unite to thank thee, Lord.



"THANKS-LIVING"

Proper Way to Show Gratitude is Doing Good to Others

Thanksgiving presupposes thankfulness. One cannot give thanks unless he feels thankful, and this feeling is a cultivated habit. As an expression of simple politeness it is not an innate but an inbred trait. Much more is this the case when we consider the thanks that are due to a beneficent Creator. In a time when luxuries are counted as necessities a sense of repulsion or dissatisfaction is often felt which makes us blind to the everyday, commonplace favors that we enjoy. Make a list of the essential and vital boons with which your life is blessed and your heart will begin to glow with thankfulness.

It is no accident that "think" and "thank" come from the same root. Thankfulness is usually the result of thoughtfulness. But we are more apt to be thoughtless about the favors that come from God through the working of his beneficent laws than about the material gifts that come from the hand of a fellow man. Stevenson has well said: "Keep your eyes open to your mercies. That part of piety is eternal, and the man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life."

Above all, the true thanksgiving is thanks-living, in the deed of the hand as well as the word of the lip. By giving some one else a reason for thankfulness through your kindness you provide a proper outlet for the brimming, overflowing gratitude of your own heart. For the common prosperity, for your individual blessings, for what you have as well as what you have, "in everything give thanks."—Rev. Robert J. Pilgrim of Pittsburgh.

PARABLE EASILY INTERPRETED

Somewhere in the good book is a parable which speaks of a certain king whose servant owed him a great debt. And when the latter was discovered to have nothing to pay, the king freely forgave him all. Which parable needs no interpretation. For who is the king but the Almighty, and who the servant but humanity?

